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Sixty-fifth year

Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

Promotion and protection of human rights

The rule of law at the national and international levels

Implementation of the resolutions of the United Nations

Strengthening of the United Nations system

Letter dated 6 December 2010 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith for your information declarations by the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation on the occasion of the sixty-fifth anniversary of the opening of the Nuremberg trials of the major Nazi war criminals (see annex I) and by the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation on the occasion of the sixty-fifth anniversary of the Nuremberg trials (see annex II). I would be grateful if you could have these circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 66, 68, 85, 117 and 120, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Alexander **Pankin**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex I to the letter dated 6 December 2010 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Declaration by the State Duma

On the occasion of the sixty-fifth anniversary of the opening of the Nuremberg trials of the major Nazi war criminals

The members of the State Duma of the Russian Federation note the abiding importance of the decisions of the International Military Tribunal for the prosecution and punishment of the major war criminals of the European Axis (hereinafter "the Tribunal") and, in particular, the historic establishment of the Tribunal itself, the first ever international court of its kind.

The history of international criminal justice begins with the Nuremberg trials. The principles enshrined in the Charter of the Tribunal were soon reaffirmed by decisions of the United Nations General Assembly as principles of international law. By handing down convictions on the Nazi criminals, the Tribunal gave legal underpinnings to the definitive rout of fascism and determined that wars of aggression were crimes against peace.

The Nuremberg trial, which was preceded by extensive diplomatic efforts undertaken by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics with the Allied Powers, offered a vivid illustration of the constructive, ideology-free interaction between the countries of the anti-Hitler coalition. Forces of very different nature, which had risen in opposition to a common enemy, were able to set aside the differences between them in the name of the primacy of justice and the international rule of law.

The Tribunal's decisions are of relevance today as well. Any attempt to revise, deny or distort them should be deemed a violation of the universally recognized norms and principles of international law, in blatant disregard of the will of the United Nations.

Attempts to shift the blame for the outbreak of the Second World War from Hitler's Germany to the Soviet Union — the country which initiated the creation of the Tribunal — are a deliberate and mendacious denial of history.

Actions of any kind designed to equate, in terms of "historical guilt", the Nazi regime, which systematically and relentlessly pursued the goal of world domination, with the social and political system that prevailed at that time in the Soviet Union are an affront to the veterans of the anti-fascist movement and profane the memory of the victims of the Holocaust, the prisoners of concentration camps, the tens of millions of people in Europe and, above all, those Soviet people who gave their lives in fighting the anti-human racial theories of Nazism.

Even during the Cold War no one tried to draw a parallel between the Nazi regime, which threatened to enslave and destroy entire peoples, and the politics of the Soviet Union, which proved to be the only force capable of withstanding the war machine of Hitler's Germany and, in the closing stages of the Second World War, of ensuring its defeat.

Endeavours to justify Nazism, alongside the nationalist-oriented right-wing extremist movements in some European countries which are seeking to make folk

heroes out of their war criminals, are a source of grave concern to the State Duma. Often more space in school textbooks is devoted to the so-called "exploits" of Nazi collaborators than to the Nuremberg trials, which consigned those collaborators to eternal condemnation. The desecration of monuments to those who conquered fascism is tolerated and the memory hallowed of those who acted on the side of the aggressors. Accomplices in the perpetration of fascist atrocities are rehabilitated and presented with State awards while soldiers who fought in the ranks of the anti-Hitler coalition are subject to persecution.

One direct consequence of such efforts was, in particular, the verdict handed down by the European Court of Human Rights against Vladimir Kononov, a citizen of the Russian Federation and veteran of the Great Patriotic War, a verdict which provoked public outrage.

All responsible political leaders should always remember: the Tribunal categorically affirmed that there can be no justification for complicity in crimes against peace, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

The State Duma calls on international organizations and the parliaments of the world to condemn in the strongest terms and to resist any attempts to resuscitate fascist, far-right, racist and nationalist ideologies in their own countries and anywhere else, basing such condemnation and resistance on the unequivocal and universally valid decisions of the Tribunal.

The State Duma welcomes the adoption on 16 November 2010 by the Third Committee of the United Nations General Assembly of resolution 65/36 on the inadmissibility of certain practices that contribute to fuelling contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, which contains a direct reference to the Charter of the Tribunal, and also to the Judgement of the Tribunal, which recognized, among other things, the SS organization and all its integral parts, including the Waffen SS, as criminal and declared it responsible for many war crimes and crimes against humanity.

The State Duma expresses its regret that, masking their true intentions with slogans about European solidarity and affirmations of the freedom of speech and assembly, a number of European countries did not support that resolution. The position of the European Union, which effectively calls into question the Tribunal's decisions, is both surprising and difficult to understand.

The members of the State Duma call on all countries of the world to support the aforementioned resolution when it is put to the vote at a forthcoming plenary meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly and thereby to make their contribution to efforts to prevent the resurgence of the "brown plague" of the twentieth century in this new century.

B. V. **Gryzlov**
Speaker, State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation

(*Stamp*) Protocol Department, State Duma of the
Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation

Moscow,
23 November 2010

Annex II to the letter dated 6 December 2010 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Declaration by the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation

On the occasion of the sixty-fifth anniversary of the Nuremberg trials

The Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation takes note of the sixty-fifth anniversary of the launching of the Nuremberg International Military Tribunal, which gave legal underpinning to the final defeat of fascism, and draws the attention of the international community to the need to resist attempts by certain forces to distort and diminish the historic role of the Nuremberg trials and thereby to rewrite the outcome of the Second World War and to justify the Nazis, their accomplices and the atrocities that they committed.

The International Military Tribunal, established under the London Agreement between the four allied Powers of 8 August 1945, identified Hitler's Germany as the State responsible for initiating the Second World War and condemned its unscrupulous, treacherous politics and racist ideology. It has gone down in the annals of history as the court by which the peoples passed judgement on the leaders of Nazi Germany, thereby setting a precedent for the jurisdiction of an international tribunal over the top officials, politicians and military leaders of an aggressor State.

The Nuremberg trials played an exceptionally important role in the progressive development of modern international law and the establishment of international criminal justice. The principles enshrined in the Charter of the International Military Tribunal and reaffirmed in resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly of 11 December 1946 and 27 November 1947 formed the bedrock for post-war international legal instruments designed to prevent the outbreak of wars and the commission of war crimes, genocide, acts of torture and other atrocities, and also to preclude the application of statutory limitations to war crimes and crimes against humanity.

The judgements of the Nuremberg Tribunal remain relevant today as well, when there are increasingly frequent attempts to rewrite the history of the Second World War and a conspicuous desire to lay the blame for unleashing that war not only on Hitler's Germany, but also on the Soviet Union, which suffered a treacherous onslaught and which made the most decisive contribution to the routing of the fascist German aggressors.

The Russian Federation has repeatedly voiced sharp criticism for the policies and actions of certain European countries where veterans of the Great Patriotic War and activists of anti-fascist movements have been hauled before the criminal courts, where marches and rallies of the members of former Nazi and collaborator units have been permitted, and where monuments to Soviet military liberators have been destroyed. For our people, who suffered massive losses in the Great Patriotic War, such actions are an affront and an abomination.

On this, the sixty-fifth anniversary of the victory over fascism, the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation strongly affirms that the Nuremberg trials are of timeless historical significance and that their outcome is not

subject to revision. The work of the International Military Tribunal should stand as a vivid example of the triumph of justice and a reminder that retribution for crimes against peace and humanity is ineluctable. The tragic pages of history which were brought to a close by the Nuremberg Tribunal should not be repeated.

Being faithful to the principles of Nuremberg today means safeguarding and developing the spirit of cooperation and goodwill and remaining vigilant and intolerant of any attempts to breach international law.

The Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation calls on the international community to respect and uphold the principles of international criminal law elaborated in Nuremberg as an indispensable and indefeasible foundation of the modern world order.

(*Stamp*) Information and Documentation Department,
Office of the Federation Council of the
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Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation

Moscow,
24 November 2010